The Citizen

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Royal command for artist Peter

Painter working on picture for Queen's visit to East Lancs

By EMMA CRUCES

AN ACCRINGTON artist is to create a special painting capturing a local beauty spot for the Queen.

Nature and wildlife artist Peter Sherburn has been asked to create a special painting featuring a 'working dog' and local scenery especially for Her Majesty's visit to the town.

The 63-year-old artist has worked as a commercial and professional artist since leaving school but said this was by far the biggest commission of his career.

The former St Christopher's pupil has gained a local reputation for his lifelike and moving pictures of four-legged friends in particular.

His work had prompted Hyndburn Council to ask him to create something for the Queen, knowing her fondness for man's best friend.

Peter said: "I have just a small studio at home and when I heard that my picture would be used as a gift to the Queen, I was flabbergasted.

HONOURED: Peter at work in his studio. Top, the Queen, and, above, an example of Peter's work

"It was totally amazing and an answer to a prayer really. Hyndburn Council were very keen to have me do the piece but I also had to be approved by Lord Shuttleworth and it was a week waiting to hear that I'd been approved".

Peter's painting will feature an English springer spaniel, a breed of gun dog traditionally used for flushing and retrieving game.

"The dog, who will be depicted jumping over a log, will be in the fore-ground of an Oswaldtwistle moorland scene.

Peter said: "I painted the Springer from a photograph because most pictures of dogs are static and I could paint him jumping with his ears flying. It's a great pose.

"The council were keen for me to include local countryside so behind him there is some Oswaldtwistle moorland – lovely heather moors. Some people have been reduced to tears when I've painted their pets for them.

"I know the Queen has a springer spaniel and I do hope she likes it."

Leader of the council Miles Parkinson said: "Peter is renowned for his animal portraits and knowing the Queen's love of dogs, we thought it was appropriate."

Hotel owner in TV's Four In A Bed

A hotel owner is appearing on television this week in the Channel 4 programme 'Four in a Bed'. Neil Bullows, who runs the Whitehall Hotel, Darwen, is competing against three other hotels from across the country to see who offers the best stay.

STORY 3

SPIKEY HUMOUR

Twelve years since he took up comedy full-time, Dave Spikey says he's finally coming to terms with the art of making people laugh.

LEISURE 11

Market site deal is closer

Blackburn with Darwen Council is closing in on a deal for the old Blackburn Market site. Talks are set to begin with a potential purchaser.

STORY 7

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Citizen In brief

Classic composers at the cathedral

THE Blackburn Music Society perform with Lancashire Chamber Orchestra conductor James Davy and organist Samuel Hudson at Blackburn Cathedral on April 21 at 7.30pm. The concert features Dvorak's Mass in D and Faure's Requiem, tickets from Blackburn Visitor Centre on 01254 688040.

Adoption appeal

PEOPLE interested in becoming adoptive parents are being urged to come forward and help to give a child a good home.

Blackburn with Darwen Council are asking those who wish to find out more to get in touch. For more information visit www.blackburn.gov.uk

Night at the theatre

TICKETS are still available for the inaugural Darwen Town Council Mayor's Command Performance at Darwen Library Theatre on Saturday at 7.30pm.

They cost £8 and all proceeds go to the Friends of Darwen Tower. On the bill are the Phil Knight Experience, Steve Donnelly, Elite Music and the Dance Crazy Theatre School.

Don Banks will compere the evening's entertainment.

Hotel boss turns judge for TV show

A DARWEN hotel owner is appearing on television this week in the Channel 4 programme 'Four in a Bed'.

Neil Bullows, who runs the Whitehall Hotel, off Ross Street, with his wife Tracy, was invited to appear on the daily show after his 16-bedroom hotel was completely refurbished.

On the programme, four hotel owners throw open their doors and take it in turns to stay at each other's properties.

The twist is that the hoteliers only pay what they consider fair for their stay and fill in feedback sheets for the owners. Mr Bullows said he had a great time filming the show.

He said: "We were very excited when we were selected to take part in the programme.

"There is always an element of risk but with the recent improvements we've made upgrading the bedrooms, we were confident the other contestants would thoroughly enjoy their stay."

The group's first stay was at the King's Head and Queen's Jules in Bungay, Suffolk. Mr Bullows said the 17th century-themed hotel was competely different from what he was used to.

He said: "We were quite critical, but with justification."

The second hotel was the 'adult-themed' Continental, in Harwich, Essex, which Mr Bullows said was 'tastefully' decorated with fantastic views of the sea.

The final hotel before the contestants came to stay in Darwen was the luxury Llanerch Vineyard Hotel, near Cardiff.

During the guests' visit to the Whitehall Hotel, Mr Bullows took the other contestants to the Crown paint factory to teach them about the importance of good design.

He said: "I am a big believer in promoting other businesses but not all of them took it on board and one of them fell asleep!"

'Four in a Bed' screens at 5.30pm each evening this week and the Whitehall Hotel episode is on Thursday.

OFFERING A WARM WELCOME: Neil Bullows who runs the Whitehall Hotel, Darwen

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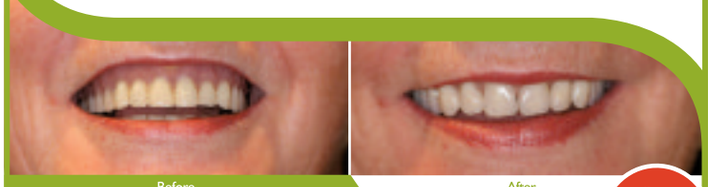

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Surprise trip for diamond couple

A COUPLE in Blackburn have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with a surprise visit from family in Australia.

Ron and Jean Booth, who live at Spinneyside Sheltered Housing, in Bethesda Close, got married in 1952 and had two parties to mark their 60 years together – one at their home with friends and another with family.

Mr and Mrs Booth's granddaughter, Laura-Jean Riley and their great granddaughter Siara Jean Induruwa, both came over from Australia to join in the celebrations.

Their youngest son, Grahame, said: "It was the first time that they had both seen their great granddaughter."

Bishop speaks out over 'churches tax'

WORRIED Bishop Nicholas Reade

A BISHOP has said he is 'extremely worried' by plans to impose Value Added Tax on church buildings.

In the recent budget, the Chancellor George Osborne revealed that alterations to listed buildings, many of which are churches, will be subject to 20 per cent VAT from October, instead of previously being exempt.

The decision will mean that the cost of repairs and renovations to some of the regions most valued churches and cathedrals will soar. Now the Bishop of Blackburn, the Rt Rev Nicholas Reade, has said: "Churches have had a problem raising money for years.

"People don't realise we get no state subsidies and most of the money is raised by church members.

"If you suddenly find out you need £100,000 for repairs, where is that going to come from?

"One of the biggest helps was that if you needed to raise money for repairs it would be VAT free but now that's gone we will have to think twice about making repairs."

Reverand Andy Frowd, of St Mary Magdalene's Church, Clitheroe, who has just signed a contract for repairs costing £320,000, said that had work not already begun on the church it may have had to close.

He said: "It would not be possible to to start the project to repair the steeple now. If we hadn't started it two years ago the only option would have been to close the church and let it fall down. That would be another blow to the economy of Clitheroe as the church and the castle are the towns main landmarks."

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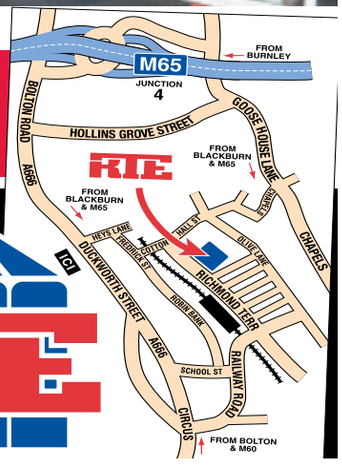

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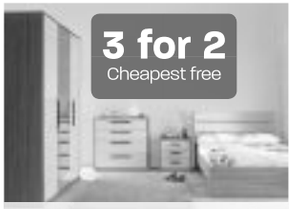

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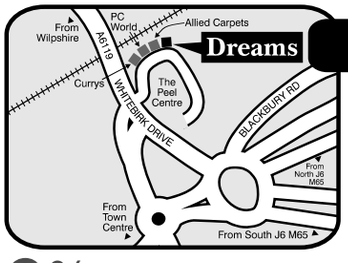

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Deal for market site gets closer

By CATHERINE PYE

Blackburn with Darwen Council is closing in on a deal for the old Blackburn Market site.

Officers invited two potential purchasers to set out their visions for the site in Ainsworth Street, and now want discussions with an unnamed Purchaser A.

The scheme would comprise of a 70,000sq ft retail food store on stilts, together with some 46,000 sq ft of non-food retail, restaurant and cafe uses in five blocks.

It was deemed a 'more robust financial appraisal' with 'greater prospects of delivery' than a scheme put forward by Purcahser B, to build either a 63,000sq ft anchor store linked into The Mall at ground and main precinct level, together with a 50,000sq ft retail food store on stilts and 23,000sq ft of associated retail, leisure and restaurant units, or a 48,000 sq ft of retail/leisure space in stand alone units in place of an anchor store.

A council spokesman declined to give any details of either bidder, but last June the Lancashire Telegraph saw the final shortlist of potential purchasers, which included Capital and Regional, which owns The Mall, and Muse Developments Ltd, which was responsible for the renovation of St Paul's Square in Liverpool.

Muse Developments Ltd has since ended its interest, but Capital and Regional has given no indication on its bid status.

It was thought that The Mall was interested in expanding into the market site, which alone comes to 126,600 sq ft, but that does not include the surrounding shops.

Purchaser A has applied for Pennine Reach funding for the scheme, and are undertaking further financial assessment.

catherine.pye@lancashire.newsquest.co.uk

DEAL POSSIBLE: The former market building has attracted interest from developers

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The cost is £5 per item valued.

Knitter Sonia has a purl-er of a business

IDEA BLOSSOMS: Sonia, who has been knitting all her life

A former health care assistant at the Royal Blackburn Hospital has come up with a 'purl-er' of a business.

Sonia Neville, 54, has opened her own shop Knitwits and Gifts, in Pleckgate Road, Blackburn, selling handmade cards, cross stitch, clothes and toys.

She is also aiming to set up knitting classes for youngsters at local schools to keep the tradition alive and a knit and natter club to bring the community together.

Sonia, who has three children and five grandchildren, said: "I was working 13-hour shifts and just thought to myself 'I wish I could do something else'.

"I've always wanted to run my own business and I've been knitting all my life so it was the natural choice. I saw the shop and came to have a look and that was it.

"I have four granddaughters, eight step grandchildren and three step great grandchildren, who all live over in Australia, so have always knitted things like cardigans and jumpers as birthday presents and sent them over."

Sonia, who is originally from Colne, moved down south many years ago and has had a diverse career.

She was Aldershot's first female taxi driver and has worked as a pharmacy supervisor, a nursery nurse and a prison officer. She also worked as a carer at Kemple View in Langho for two years and worked on the orthapedic ward at Royal Blackburn Hospital for almost three years. She moved back to Lancashire 10 years ago to be nearer her family and now lives in Blackburn with her second husband David.

Sonia said: "There's not many jobs I've not done, but if I don't do this now I never will.

"David wasn't overly keen at first, due to the state of the economy, but is fully supporting me as it is something I've always fancied doing. I'm hoping to go round local schools and set up an afterschool club teaching children to knit. My eldest granddaughter goes to school in Langho and they asked if any mums or grans wanted to come in. Knitting is coming back now, so if I can get children interested, they could be my future customers!"

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I'm getting the hang of comedy now

It is getting on for 12 years since Dave Spikey finally hung up his lab coat and left the haemotology lab at Bolton Hospital to concentrate full-time on comedy.

Since then he's been, in part, responsible for the cult TV series Phoenix Nights, hosted Bullseye, been a team captain on 8 Out Of 10 Cats and had a series of sell-out tours.

And yet it is only now Dave feels as though he's come to terms with making people laugh.

His current show, Words Don't Come Easy, is based on the vagaries of the English language and funny things we say.

"The idea was to draw the line under this show at the end of last year," said Dave. "But theatres kept ringing up asking for dates and it's just kept growing. I do find it difficult to sit still and I've even got some dates booked in for next year.

"It's not the same show as when it started and I'm tweaking it all the time."

The show has received rave reviews — some of the best he's ever got.

"I think it's very flattering," he said. "As a comedian you are always trying to improve and I think I'm now finding the format that suits me best. I've never been a 'blue' comedian but the odd swear word did creep in. Now the language has changed and the audience has changed.

"I did a show the other week and on the front row there was a couple who must have been in their eighties with a bunch of students sat next to them.

"I think comedians just setting out don't realise there is a craft in what we do. It's all right being funny in front of your mates but can you make 500 paying punters laugh?

■ Dave Spikey, King George's Hall, Blackburn, Friday, April 13. Details from 0844 847 1664

Cinema round-up

TITANIC 3D (12A) James Cameron has revisited his masterpiece, converting it to 3D, as we follow Jack and Rose's fated love story on the liner.

THE HUNGER GAMES (12A) In a post-apocalyptic future, every year a boy and a girl are selected for a fight to the death. With Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson.

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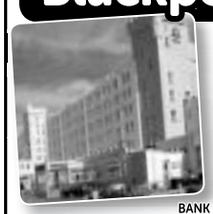

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Advertisement feature

Don't ignore damp

Spring is the perfect time to tackle this common problem, says Holland Damp Proofing

By Sarah Porter

April is a time when many homeowners tackle redecorating, DIY, and general maintenance in and out of the home, including treating the causes of damp.

Decorating a damp home can be a waste of time as you are simply painting over a serious problem.

Damp rots woodwork and carpets, peels wallpaper and causes fungus and mould growth on walls. Although those symptoms might have lessened with the lack of rain, that damp will be back!

It is important to tackle the problem because ignoring damp can store up serious problems and also pose potential health risks – especially if you have a medical condition such as asthma or rheumatism.

For years, people have tried to solve damp problems by applying waterproof coatings or injecting walls with chemical solutions. This usually involves contractors coming into your home and drilling into brickwork to pump chemicals into the walls – hacking off and replacing plaster inside.

EXPERT OPINION: Evert de Graaf with one of the damp-regulating bricks that have already been installed in thousands of UK homes.

The work tends to be messy, intrusive and your home will need redecorating once it's been done.

And, despite all this upheaval, there's no guarantee that it will work in the long term. Chemical barriers tend to break down over time and, once this happens, that damp will be back. Holland Damp Proofing is a breath of fresh air that can permanently rid your home of the scourge of damp.

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"I must have been one of the first of Holland's customers and they did a great job. They got rid of my damp problem and it didn't come back. That's a good enough recommendation for me."

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ADMIN PERSON req full time to work at our offices in Innovation Centre, Blackburn. Salary circa £14,000 per annum based on a 37 hour week. Please forward your CV to Ben Whitham, BR Testing Ltd, Innovation Centre, Evolution Park, Blackburn BB1 2FD or email CV to benwhitham@brtesting.co.uk

QUALIFIED DENTAL Nurse req full time to work in a large dental practice in Accrington. Tel Mrs Baron 01254 232040 ext 2 or send CV to carol.baron@ntlworld.com

NURSERY NURSE (Advanced Apprentice) NVQ 2 qualified candidate req for Coach House Nursery, Blackburn. 01254 278110

TRAINING 2000

Engineering Instructors/Worked Based Assessors – Engineering

Due to a significant increase in the number of Engineering Apprentices recruited this year along with the request to deliver Apprenticeship programmes on a national basis for employers that include Royal Mail, United Utilities and Chubb Security a number of vacancies have arisen within the Company's Operations Organisation (Engineering Department). Applicants will primarily be responsible for overseeing the development of Apprentices working within our customer base through the delivery and assessment of off-the-job and work based activity. The positions require self motivated and effective team players who possess excellent communication and organisational skills.

A teaching/assessor qualification, although not essential, would be a definite advantage and applicants must have completed a recognised Engineering Apprenticeship in one of the following skill areas:

Electrical Maintenance
Mechanical Maintenance
Machining (inc experience of CNC Machining)
Welding and Fabrication
Engineering Design

These full time, permanent posts offer an attractive employment package, including benefits such as company pension scheme, free life insurance and free health cover.

Appointments are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure CRB check.

For further information regarding the positions, please contact Neil Burrows on 01254 54659.

For an application pack please contact Elizabeth George, HR Department, Training 2000 Ltd, Furthergate Business Park, Harwood Street, Blackburn BB1 3BD or call 01254 54659.

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Training 2000 is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of learners and expects all staff, sub contractors, visitors, employers and other learners to share this commitment

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- Developing and improving sales via telesales
- Other sales promotional activities.

You must be confident, self-motivated, computer literate and capable of building good working relationships. Previous experience in sales is essential and experience in the air filtration industry would be a distinct advantage.

Please apply by telephone to Melissa Back: 01706 878330

BetaGroup, Underbank Mill, Burnley Road, Bacup, Lancashire OL13 8AQ

www.betagroupltd.com

NHS East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group

Lay members of the governing body

East Lancashire CCG and Blackburn with Darwen CCG are emerging Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), working towards authorisation as statutory bodies under the Health and Social Care Bill 2012. The Bill puts local GPs and healthcare professionals at the forefront of commissioning services for local people. Each of the CCGs now have an exciting opportunity for two Lay Members to play an important part in shaping and developing the emerging CCGs as they become fully established. Our CCGs are keen to have lay members of the local community, who are local residents, to take up these roles. Applications for Blackburn with Darwen CCG must be residents in the Blackburn with Darwen community and likewise for East Lancashire CCG, applicants must be residents of East Lancashire.

Lay member (designate) – with lead role in championing public and patient involvement (one vacancy each CCG)

As lead in championing public and patient involvement you will ensure that the public voice of the local population is heard, using your skills to ensure that the public and patients' expectations are understood and are met as appropriate. You will ensure that the CCG builds and maintains an effective relationship with local Healthwatch and draws on existing patient and public engagement and involvement expertise.

In the event of a clinician being appointed to the role of Accountable Officer for the CCG, you would also be asked to fulfil the role of Chair of the governing body. Should the appointment of Accountable Officer be of a non-clinical individual, you would be asked to undertake the role of Deputy Chair.

The role will be on a part time basis averaging 2 days a week if the role includes being Chair of the governing body and will be remunerated in line with guidelines due to be published (anticipated to be in the region of £25K per annum). If the role becomes Deputy Chair the time commitment is expected to be around 2 days a month and the remuneration will be adjusted accordingly.

Lay member (designate) – with lead role in overseeing key elements of governance (one vacancy for each CCG)

You will bring strategic insight and impartiality to the governing body, overseeing key elements of governance, including audit, remuneration and conflicts of interest. You will have the skills, knowledge and expertise to assess and confirm that appropriate systems of internal control are in place for all aspects of governance, including financial and risk management. You will be expected to chair the audit committee.

The role will be on a part time basis averaging 2 days a month and will be remunerated in line with guidelines due to be published (anticipated to be in the region of £7K per annum).

Applicants are asked to assess their suitability for the roles by reviewing the job descriptions and skills / attributes self-assessment sheets which are available on-line at www.bwd.nhs.uk under 'Clinical Commissioning Group' on the home page or at www.eastlancspct.nhs.uk under 'EL CCG' on the home page. These job descriptions apply to the posts at both Blackburn with Darwen and East Lancashire CCG.

Alternatively please request via:

Blackburn with Darwen CCG
Catherine Baron, Business Support Officer on 01254 282120 or via email Catherine.baron@bwd.nhs.uk).

East Lancashire CCG
Debra Atkinson, Administration Manager on 01282 644685 or via email debra.atkinson@eastlancspct.nhs.uk

Both CCGs are committed to equality and diversity for all. Should you require a reasonable adjustment to our recruitment process please contact Rachel Blenkinsop, Human Resources on 01254 282111 or via Rachel.Blenkinsop@bwd.nhs.uk, at the earliest opportunity to ensure that measures can be put in place to enable your application for these posts.

Initial expressions of interest, including a covering letter and CV, **clearly stating your preferred role, should be made in writing to:**

For Blackburn with Darwen CCG:
Catherine Baron
Blackburn with Darwen Care Trust Plus
Guide Business Centre
School Lane
Blackburn
Lancashire
BB1 2QH

For East Lancashire CCG:
Debra Atkinson
NHS East Lancashire
Walshaw House
Regent Street
Nelson
BB9 8AS

The closing date for receipt of applications for these posts is no later than 12.00 noon on Wednesday 18 April 2012.

Staff employed in the NHS or who work for an organisation where it is considered that there is likely to be a conflict of interest will not be eligible to apply.

These are designate appointments which will be formalised once the CCGs are established by the NHS Commissioning Board Authority.

We value and promote diversity and are committed to opportunity for all and appointments made on merit.

General Vacancies

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- Achieve and exceed established targets
- Produce and implement Sales and Marketing plans
- Set and work within KPI's

The Person:
- Demonstrate strong leadership skills
- Be self-driven and motivate staff to achieve optimum performance
- Have a proven track record in sales and sales team management
- Excellent communication and administrative skills
- Build strong working relationships with colleagues and external customers

If you would like to be considered for this role, please send your CV/covering letter to:
Jaclyn Haxton
Darwen House, Walker Park, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 2QE.
TEL: 01254 589556

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To find out more or apply, please send your CV to marie.england@whitbread.com

www.whitbreadcareers.co.uk

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SHOP ASSISTANT req part time for busy caravan leisure shop, 6 months contract. Caravan exp would be advantageous but not necessary. Must be flexible, imm start. CVs to Alison Theaker, Read Caravans Ltd, Croft Head Rd, Whitebirk Ind Est, Blackburn BB1 5UE or shop@readcaravans.com

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09 (58) VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 CLUB; light met blue, 10,000 miles.....£6,990
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09 (58) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE; silver only 4,000 miles.....£7,990
09 (58) VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 LIFE; metallic blue, only 3,000 miles.....£6,990
08 (08) FOCUS C MAX 1.8 ZETEC TURBO DIESEL; blue metallic, 7,000 miles.....£9,990
08 (08) CHEVROLET TACUMA 1600 SX; metallic blue, only 6,000 miles.....£4,990
08 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi AUTOMATIC; 5 door, silver, 8,000 miles, alloys.....£6,990
08 (57) ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN AUTOMATIC; 5 door, silver, half leather, alloys, 9,200 miles...£6,990
07 (57) CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 TURBO DIESEL VTX; artic steel, 19,000 miles, air con, alloys.....£7,990
07 (57) FIAT PANDA 1.2 DYNAMIQUE; 5 door, 11,000 miles.....£4,990
07 (07) FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE; air con, alloys, tango red, 12,000 miles..£6,990
07 (07) NISSAN NOTE 1.4 SE; 5 door, only 11,000 miles, copper glow metallic £6,290
07 (07) RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE; 5 door, bright blue, 30,000 miles.....£4,990
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04 (54) NISSAN ALMERA; 1.5 SE; 5 door, silver, 1 owner, 39,000 miles, FSH, parking sensor.....£3,990
04 (54) VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 ENERGY; metallic blue, tinted glass, well worth seeing, 54,000 miles.....£2,990
04 (04) RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE; 5 door, bright blue metallic, 36,000 miles, service history.....£3,990
(04) NISSAN ALMERA TINO; diesel, 1 owner, black, 69,000 miles, expected this weekend.....£2,990
03 (53) FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX; black, 5 door, 43,000 miles.....£3,490
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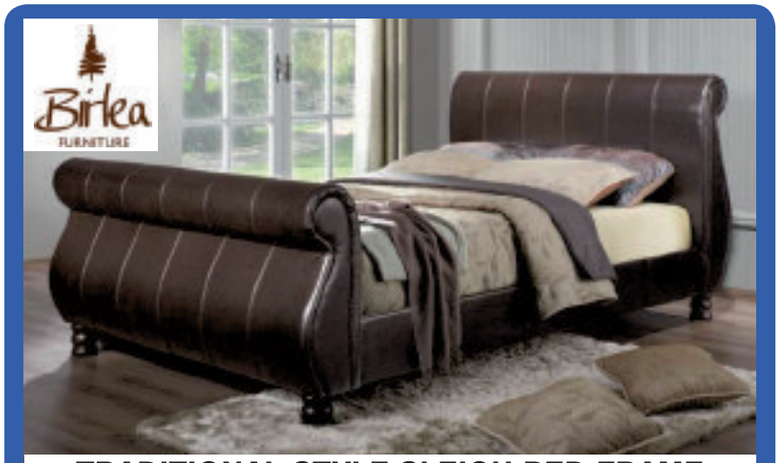

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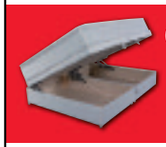

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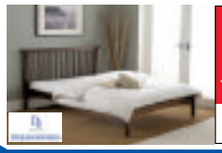

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